

SPLIT NOTES

Number 23

News from The Harrogate Band

April 2002

Torquay here we come !!

The Harrogate Band will be representing the North of England Region in the National Brass Band Championship Finals in Torquay in September. Second place in the Northern Region First Section Championships assured the band's invitation to the Finals for the third year in a row. A winning performance of George Lloyd's *Royal Parks* narrowly missed gaining the band a hat trick of Champions trophies and we had to settle for runners-up to winners Gateshead Brass. Another, great pleasure was the award of the trophy for "Best Percussion Section" to Katie Illsley and Steve Morland. This is the *John Hallums Trophy* which was donated by the Harrogate Band to the Northern Region Championships in John's memory in 2001. One quote from the press said the band "as usual, produced an absolute stunner of a performance".

Our excellent result in this contest assures our promotion to the **Championship Section** from January 2003 - a first for the Band and a superb achievement for all the players, but particularly thanks to the inspiring leadership of MD David Lancaster.

Made in Harrogate

The Harrogate Royal Hall Restoration fund received a welcome boost in November, when the Harrogate Band gave a special performance in the hall itself. *Made in Harrogate* was the title of the concert, which comprised purely of work by musicians who have had links with the town. Prominent in the programme was the work of local composers such as Wilfred Heaton, Phillip Wilby, Ernest Farrar, Delius, Finzi, the band's Musical Director David Lancaster, and other composers who have either lived in the area or have been regular visitors. One such person

was Edward Elgar, who came to Harrogate every year to 'take the waters', and whose second symphony had its provincial premiere in the town. In addition, the concert featured compositions and arrangements by the band's own members, plus band founder and prominent local musician Neil Richmond. Neil's research into local music was central to this event, and his arrangements of some of the pieces unearthed were heard on the night. The range of music provided something for everyone, from old to new, classical to modern, plus some light-hearted moments along the way.

The Royal Hall, originally known as *The Kursaal*, dates from a time when Harrogate was a popular spa resort with its own professional orchestras and bands, so it seems natural that one of Harrogate's leading groups drew on that wealth of history to stage this event. The Harrogate Band is grateful to Harrogate International Centre, who donated the venue free of charge - this ensured that all proceeds from the evening, some £2,000, go directly toward assuring the future of Harrogate's elegant Edwardian concert hall.

You Choose the Music

You can support the Band's attempt to bring the National Championship trophy back to Harrogate simply by attending a concert and enjoying the band's performance - what could be simpler or more fun? The programme will be varied and entertaining and will feature our innovative **Interactive Jukebox** where you, the audience, will be able to have a say in selecting the music we play! St Peter's Church, Harrogate, Saturday 7th September at 7.30 p.m.



Heartbeat

Ten Harrogate players and conductor David Lancaster have recently made the big break into media stardom when they performed in an episode of Yorkshire TV's popular Heartbeat programme. Recorded in November, it was aired in late February. The players spent two arduous days on location around Yorkshire, recording a number of pieces and acting a key role in several scenes in the drama. The opportunity to take part was a very exciting one for the band; however it did pose a number of problems. Music needed to be specially arranged, players needed to be available during the daytime on both Monday and Tuesday and the producer specifically requested that a number of the performers should be 'middle aged men'. However the production team and Yorkshire TV's Head of Music Sue Clarke declared themselves to be entirely satisfied with the group's performance and the players found the whole experience not only fascinating but highly enjoyable. Having already completed a documentary for Yorkshire TV earlier last year, who can predict where Harrogate Band's bid for television stardom will take them next? Actually we can! Look out for a group from the Band in a future "Golden Jubilee" episode of **Emmerdale**, due to be filmed soon.

People

A very warm welcome to Sophie Rhodes who has joined us on Euphonium.

Congratulations to Karen Shore, the band's Repiano cornet player, who was awarded the trophy for the "most improved player" at this year's AGM in March.

We were very sorry to see two players leave the band recently. David Oakes has been an excellent and stalwart member and euphonium player, and recently made major contributions to fundraising for the Band. Jennie Roberts, trombone, has gone to South Korea for one year, teaching English in a school. She's currently looking for a band out there but had no luck so far! We wish them both all the best for the future.

Recent concerts

Limbs For Life - Harrogate Soroptomists invited the Band to give this concert in aid of Limbs for Life, a charity supporting casualties of anti-personnel landmines. A wide range of musical pieces from the Band were very nicely contrasted by our guest artists in the concert, *The Four Degrees*, a talented barbershop quartet from the University College of York St John.

Brass Band Conductors Convention - The Band gave an illustrated concert in Wetherby for the National Association of Brass Band Conductors Annual Convention, concluding a weekend of discussions, talks and music. Philip Wilby introduced his works *The Seasons*, played by the band, and his most recent test piece *Atlantic*. Three additional works by Harrogate based composers were played by the band and were discussed by Neil Richmond who related their place in the musical history of Harrogate. Following an illustrated talk on *Early Harrogate Bands* by

Gavin Holman, further pieces linked to Harrogate were introduced by David Lancaster and the Band.

American Guests From Concordia - Our first concert of 2002 was held with the Concordia University Wind Ensemble from Wisconsin, conducted by Dr Louis Menchaca, who were in the UK for a concert tour. The audience thoroughly enjoyed a varied programme of contrasting styles, illustrating the combined musical heritage of both bands.

Fire Services - A capacity audience in the Royal Hall enjoyed a seasonal concert by the band and the St Aidan's Choir. A brass quintet serenaded people as they arrived at the door and then moved into the Hall to join the main band in the first carol. Over £3,000 was raised for the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund

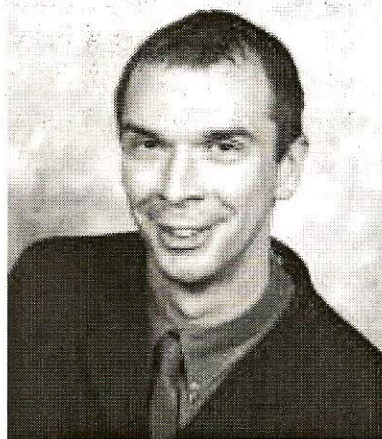
Scottish Celebration - St. Andrew's Day may have passed unnoticed by most English Bands but the Harrogate Band, along with the talented Tewit Youth Band and the highly professional James Stretton Brass Quintet marked this occasion with a joint concert - almost a mini brass festival - in the prestigious setting of Harrogate Ladies' College. The bands combined in several pieces with a Scottish theme: *Skirl*, *Jamie's Patrol* and *Highland Cathedral*, featuring the bagpipes of Christopher Small. The groups' individual items were more varied in style and included works by Peter Graham, Arthur Butterworth and Malcolm Arnold, alongside lighter fare from Robbie Williams and Neil Diamond. The performers were well received by the enthusiastic audience - it should become an annual event, possibly celebrating St. George, St. Patrick and St. David in the future! Harrogate Band were joined for this concert by Brian Winter, principal cornet of the Ransomes Band, stepping in at short notice to deputise for Robert Illsley who had been rushed in to hospital earlier in the week and emerged minus appendix. Brian did a wonderful job and thankfully Robert made a speedy recovery! The concert concluded with a rousing massed bands' performance of

Wilfred Heaton's march *Le Tricot Rouge*, which was originally composed for the Tewit Youth Band.

Return To Starbeck - A warm and appreciative audience welcomed the Band to the Starbeck Methodist Church for its first concert in the village for over 8 years. A wide range of music was played which was clearly enjoyed by those who attended. Despite missing its key bass trombonist, Ian Bristow, the band commenced its programme with vigour and style. During the second or third piece in the programme Ian arrived and quietly joined the band on the stage. The reason for his late arrival, which was gleefully communicated to the audience after the interval, was due to him mistakenly awaiting the rest of the band at the Gracious Street Methodist Church in Knaresborough, three miles away, until he realised his error!

Composition Win

David Lancaster recently won the brass band category for his work *Cuba* in a new competition organised by the Leeds University Music School in conjunction with Black Dyke Band, The British Trombone Society and The Society for the Promotion of New Music. His score was one of 72 received for judging in the competition which, according to Philip Wilby,



"were of exceptionally high standard making the judging very difficult". *Cuba* is to be given its premiere performance and recorded for CD by the Black Dyke Band later this year. Well done David!

All welcome!

Race Night. The annual Harrogate Scalextric Grand Prix will take place on Saturday 15 June in the bandroom, to raise money for the National Finals fund. The previous years' races have been lots of fun with many band members and their guests enjoying the thrills and spills and showing off their...erm...driving skills. Details from David Lancaster (01423-522643) or Steve Morland (01423-526746)

Treasure Hunt and Barbeque - Saturday 3rd August, starting at the bandroom. Details from David Lancaster (01423-522643)

Future Engagements

- 27-Apr-02 Ripon Races, 1pm
- 5-May-02 Buxton Contest
- 9-Jun-02 Valley Gardens, Harrogate, 3pm
- 15-Jun-02 Askham Bryan College Open Day, 11am
- 7-Jul-02 Pateley Bridge Bandstand, 2.30
- 20-Jul-02 Ripon Races, 1pm
- 21-Jul-02 Wetherby Bandstand, 2pm
- 27-Jul-02 Mowbray House Proms Concert, Kirkby Malzeard, 7.30pm
- 28-Jul-02 Golden Acre Park, Leeds, 2.30
- 7-Sep-02 "Interactive Jukebox" concert, St Peter's Church, Harrogate, 7.30
- 22-Sep-02 National Finals, Torquay
- 30-Nov-02 Harrogate Ladies College
- 7-Dec-02 Ripon Cathedral
- 22-Dec-02 Fire Brigade Charity Concert

These are confirmed public engagements. For further details of any of these, please see the website or contact the Band via the numbers below.

Email News

If you would like to receive occasional news from the Band via email, just send a message with your name and email address to Gavin Holman - see below.

New CD for 2002

The music featured in the **Made in Harrogate** concert will be the focus of the band's next CD. The recording date in November had to be postponed and we recorded most of the tracks during a session in February. A second recording session is planned for mid May to complete the project. The CD itself will be released as soon as possible after that. Please let us know if you wish to reserve a copy or would like to be notified when the CD is available.

Copies of the band's latest recording, **Come Follow the Harrogate Band**, are still available (£10 CD, £5 cassette) from the Band at most engagements, or contact Gavin Holman - see below.

Keeping in touch

For further information see the Band's award-winning and world-famous website:

www.harrogateband.org

If you have any news or information you would like to see in future issues, please let the Editor know. For queries about our engagements or to book the band, please contact Sue Morland on 01423-887996, for any other information contact Gavin Holman .



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